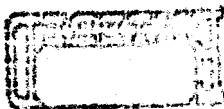
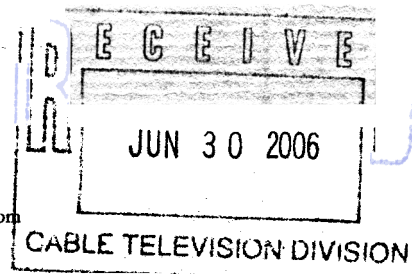


CTV
06-9 Comments



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town House, 17 Common Street, Southborough, MA 01772-1662
Tel: 508-485-0710 Fax: 508-480-0161 Email: selectmen@southboroughma.com



June 28, 2006

Ms. Alicia C. Matthews, Director
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
Cable Television Division
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

RE: Petition by Verizon New England Inc. to commence a rulemaking pursuant to 207 C.M.R. S. 2.01 (1) to amend 207 C.M. R. S. 3.00.

Dear Ms. Matthews,

The Town of Southborough urges the Cable Television Division to reject Verizon New England, Inc.'s petition for changes in the municipal licensing process.

The Town believes the current process serves both the interests of cable television providers and local communities by permitting negotiations that match local needs to providers' abilities to meet those needs.

Verizon's arguments for scrapping the current decades-old system include the cumbersome nature of dealing with multiple local Issuing Authorities along with the assertion that today's technology obsoletes the current licensing process.

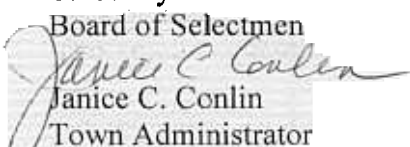
Neither assertion is correct. The central issue is whether or not the longstanding and historical regulation by municipal authorities of public rights of way should be eliminated. Loss of this control would significantly impair or negatively impact the public health, safety and welfare. Furthermore, the short clock for review under the proposed rules is administratively unrealistic for a proper local administrative process.

We urge you to maintain the current regulations regarding Cable TV licensing.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Board of Selectmen


Janice C. Conlin
Town Administrator